

Regional Services Council Minutes

Meeting Date: December 17, 2007

Meeting Location: Elkhart County CAPS Office
100 West Hively
Elkhart, IN 46517

Council Members Present: Tony Sommer, Director Elkhart County DCS; Linda Cioch, Director St. Joseph County DCS; Peggy Shively, Director Kosciusko County DCS; Michael Carroll, Director Marshall County DCS; Donald Phillips, President of Bashor Children's Home; Teresa Zornig, St Joseph County DCS; Robert Tobin, SCAN; Christine Roose, Elkhart Co Cts, Bill Bruinsma, St. Joseph Probate Court; Cindy Yoder, CAPS.

Others in Attendance: Bonita Schrock, Oaklawn

Meeting Minutes

Meeting called to order at 10:00a.m.

Approval of Minutes: Minutes from the November 19th RSC meeting approved

Family Advocates Support Tool Form distributed and discussed. The next two months will be a trial for the assessment tool. Further discussion on the continued use will take place during the upcoming RSC meeting scheduled in February.

Prevention services budget for 2008.

Tony Sommer, Director of Elkhart County DCS, proposes extension of supervised visits ordered through courts in domestic issues and therapeutic preschool provided by CAPS. Voted and approved by Council.

Michael Carroll, Director of Marshall County DCS, proposes extension of drug screening provided by Holm Medical Clinic through December 31, 2008. Memorandum of Agreement submitted for review. Voted and approved by Council.

Peggy Shively, Director of Kosciusko County DCS, has no proposed extensions at this time. Early Intervention will be meeting in January. Voted and approved by Council

Linda Cioch, Director of St. Joseph County, proposed extending the Casie Center Truancy Program and Forensic interview Program through December 31, 2008. Voted on and approved by Council.

Extension of Drug Testing provided by Forensic Labs Program extended through December 31, 2008. Voted on and approved by Council.

Extension of the Robinson Center MOA through December 31, 2008. Voted on and approved by Council.

Practice Reform Reports:

Tony Sommer, Director of Elkhart County reports progress.

Michael Carroll, Director of Marshall County reports their peer coach was promoted and is now a Program Director. A new coach is currently being trained. Michael also reports losing two workers on Friday for a total of three vacancies. Michael is focusing on keeping the staff positive and replacing vacant positions.

Peggy Shively, Director of Kosciusko County reports she has completed training and is moving forward. Her county is facing the same barriers as other counties with staffing shortages.

Linda Cioch reports 3 fully trained peer coaches, 4 CFTMs held. Caseloads remain high, 51 to 53 cases.

No questions

New business-

Linda Cioch and Tony Sommer attended the Juvenile Summit in Indianapolis. They report a good turnout and positive feedback in pulling the courts into Practice Reform.

There was discussion regarding Mondays Indy Star editorial and the need for DCS to build a Supervisory base first before placing new workers in the field. It's the quality of the supervisory staff that makes the difference between workers staying. There was a lot of discussion regarding the importance of building up support staff and supervisors then bring new FCM workers in. Recommendations by various members to slow down hiring and increase management support. You have new workers going to each other for help when they need to go to the Supervisor's for help, concern about the safety of the children and staff retention. We have more new than experienced older timers to rely on....discussion to give to Faye

Meeting was adjourned

Next Meeting: Monday, February 18th, 9:30

